



# **FOUNTAIN CREEK**

## **WATERSHED DISTRICT**

### **Citizens Advisory Group Meeting**

This meeting will be held online via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public.

February 14, 2025

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

[Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Zoom Link](#)

### **Draft Minutes**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum
  - a. Alli Schuch- FWCD
  - b. Susan Finzel- FWCD
  - c. Brianna Fett- FWCD
  - d. Terry Hart- Previous CAG Chair
  - e. Mary Barber- CAG Vice Chair
  - f. Jessica Miller- FCNC
  - g. David Woolley- new CAG Chair
  - h. Brandon Bernad- Security Water and Sanitation District
  - i. Jeanette Lara- CPW
  - j. Kurt Thurman- Holcim
  - k. Heidi Abed- Citizen
  - l. Annie Berlemann- Colorado Springs Utilities
  - m. Jessica Mills- CAG Ag. Representative
  - n. Sarah Schanz- Geologist with Colorado College
  - o. Kathy Harris- Citizen
  - p. Melody Daugherty- Citizen
  - q. Shelbi Rowland- Citizen
  - r. Christine Lowenberg- Citizen
  - s. Allen Beauchamp- TOSC
  
2. Approve February Meeting Agenda
  - a. Approved by consensus.



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3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting with noted change – January 10, 2024
  - a. Approved by consensus with noted change:
    - i. Brandon Bernard's name to be updated
  
4. Committee Member Comments
  - a. Alli Schuch introduced the new Fountain Creek Watershed District employee, Meghan Wilbar. She is a less than part time administrative assistant for Pueblo and is being funded through the Excel grant.
  - b. Chair David Woolley recommended an article in the Indy called "There is River in Our Creek"
  - c. Alli Schuch has reached out to the City of Colorado Springs and their division that deals with the unhoused twice and has received no response.
  - d. Jim O'Donnell and Alli Schuch will be at a panel discussion on the 19th of March at the Fountain Creek Nature Center in partnership with Peak Alliance for Sustainable Future.
  - e. The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be in Pueblo March 5th and 6th.
  - f. Annie Berlemann noted that the State CDPHE and Water Control Forum seems to be brushing off the e-coli TMDL. They did add a virtual stakeholder meeting for late February. Send Annie an email if you want to attend.
  
5. Presentations
  - a. Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's Projects- Brad Lubbers
    - i. Brad discussed the water quality that he does throughout 5 counties: Pueblo, Crowley, Otero, Bent, & Prowers.
    - ii. Lower Ark is pursuing funds due to decreasing Arkansas River water quality as it moves east. Studies are showing much of this may be a result of farming practices. They are pursuing this grants in hopes of staving off regulations.
    - iii. Lower Ark has completed/is working on projects for sprinkler improvements, drip system improvements, lateral lining improvements, soil health, pond liner improvements, lease-fallow, riparian buffer zone, fertilizer reduction and cover crops.
    - iv. Lower Ark receives applications from potential applicants and works to match those projects with grants.
    - v. Some challenges they are facing:
      1. They have more producers than they have money which is a challenge.
      2. Drought makes sampling difficult
    - vi. Alli Schuch asked about the taxes that fund the Lower Ark.



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- vii. David Woolley asked Brad to explain the 319 program which is a program that is EPA money divided between states for nonpoint source pollution.
- viii. Mary asked if they are seeing a reduction in water use with the sprinkler projects. Brad stated that they are much more efficient but can run into issues as they don't run water off the farm and producers are 'keeping it'. Organizations are having to figure out how to make up the water that isn't going back into the river.

## 6. Current Business/Discussion

- a. Alli Schuch discussed the governing board's meeting on January 17th. All Pueblo City and County representatives are new, onboarding has occurred.
  - i. MMF has approved budget modifications for Southmoor and Eagle Ridge projects.
  - ii. We did not actually receive the WaterSmart grant, it was for Fountain Creek Watershed Incorporated.
  - iii. Exploring other options for the Jackson Creek project.
  - iv. Signed statement of work with StanTech for a lesson's learned on previous projects and inform our last project.
  - v. Alli meet with UCCS representative to discuss a potential collaborative project that would be mapbook of infrastructure, aerial images, etc. that would help us plan our maintenance program.
  - vi. A drone video of the Southmoor Drive project was shared.
  - vii. The District's lawyer is working on landowner agreements for previous projects.
  - viii. Once the MMF funds are depleted that group will likely be housed under TAC moving forward.
  - ix. Looking at more funding opportunities by gaining credits for developed wetlands within the watershed which could be a sustainable funding source and via a grant consultant company (IMEG) to help us find additional funding sources.
- b. Annie Berlemann recapped the TAC meeting from the 5th of February.
- c. Mary Barber stated she and Jordan are still working to make the website fully accessible.
- d. Outreach
  - i. Brianna summarized the work in Colorado Springs that has occurred since the last meeting.
    - 1. CC Shadowships have started and are going well.
  - ii. Susan summarized the work that has happened in Pueblo since the last meeting.
    - 1. Pueblo will be hosting four liquid lectures this year.
    - 2. A sign created by Creative Consortium will be placed on display at El Centro Del Quinto Sol Rec Center in Pueblo.



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- iii. Annie Berlemann gave an update on AFCURE which discussed much of what Annie already mentioned about TMDL.
  - 1. Discussed restarting 9 element plan for e-coli work.
  - 2. AFCURE thinks e-coli is more of a nonpoint source issue and will likely not lead the charge on a 9 element plan for that but they are discussing 9 element plans for temperature and nutrients.
  - 3. Reach out to Annie if you would like to join an AFCURE meeting.

## 7. New Business

- a. Brianna requested assistance with YESClub classes. Preferably have a volunteer come shadow one and then teach the lesson on April 29th as Brianna cannot cover it.

## 8. 2025 Meeting Schedule

- a. Mar
- b. Apr
- c. May
- d. Jun/Jul - no meetings
- e. Aug
- f. Sept
- g. Oct
- h. Nov
- i. Dec – no meeting

## 9. Public Comments

- a. None.

## 10. Adjourn